10:42 a.m.

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. CONRAD
MR. DE LOACH
MR. EVANS
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

I called Deputy Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and advised him that I had just talked with the President who was very much disturbed; that he heard somewhere that the Washington Post had been tipped off by somebody in the Department that a Presidential Commission would be appointed to look into the entire situation down in Dallas; that this is not correct; that he does not intend to have any Presidential Commission; that he wants to have two reports prepared by the Bureau - one on the assassination and one on Oswald. I also told Mr. Katzenbach that the President had advised that the State Attorney General is going to have a court of special inquiry immediately designated as provided under Texas law; that the Attorney General of Texas sometime today will announce that a special court of inquiry has been called; that the President said the Judge is a very fine, outstanding man and Wade a capable prosecutor and Wade spoke very highly of cooperation with the Bureau.

I also told Mr. Katzenbach that I had instructed Mr. Malley in Dallas to see Wade at once and tell him we want to cooperate in every way we can in whatever he may be doing, just as we expect him to cooperate with us; any evidence we get, any testimony necessary from our personnel will be made entirely available to him.

I advised Mr. Katzenbach that the President asked that we get word of this picture to Mr. Guthman. I further indicated there would be a lot of calls today.

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Mr. Katzenbach asked who steered the Post onto this. And I replied that the President said the Post had the story and tomorrow morning

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan — November 25, 1963

intended to run a strong editorial in favor of this Presidential Commission; that he asked if I could dissuade the Post from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper but would get word as to what is being done and the possibility of the District Attorney who is still conducting an investigation. I mentioned that the District Attorney yesterday announced that the case was closed and later retracted and then said the investigation would continue. I stated that I was going to try to get word to the Post that to put out an editorial of that kind would do more harm than good.

I told Mr. Katzenbach that, if things continue as they are being done now, I thought we could get the report up by Wednesday of this week. Mr. Katzenbach said he thought so, too, and that he had sent a memorandum over this morning indicating the same thing.

I further advised him that the President felt the way we agreed upon yesterday would be best; that the report on the assassination was practically completed; that we were going into the report on Oswald today; that we must find out why the police allowed Ruby in; that the picture in the Post this morning showed definitely that no effort was made to push the fellow away or grab him. I said that I understood Ruby had been very close and had many friends among the men in the police department; that he had brought down sandwiches the second day and, when they indicated they did not want the sandwiches, he gave them to the newsmen; that he ran a night club and was friendly with the police and probably they just let him in the building; that unfortunately they had given a timetable down there on when it was going to take place to the minute.

I also informed Mr. Katzenbach that I spoke to the Attorney General last night about the procession today; that I thought the parade from the White House to the Cathedral was very dangerous; that I told the Attorney General I felt he ought to give some thought to that because we had received information that he himself would be killed and Johnson would be killed in the parade today, and we ourselves had already assigned forty of our men to the Secret Service to be along the line of march there. I said I gathered that the plan of marching up had not been changed and would go through. Mr. Katzenbach answered that, unfortunately, he thought that was true.

Mr. Katzenbach advised that Mr. Guthman had met with Mr. DeLoach and that would be done.

I advised Mr. Katzenbach that, if I learned we could stop the editorial, I would let him know. Mr. Katzenbach inquired [illegible]

do something. I replied that I thought it would be very good; that any contact he might have over there would be very helpful to dissuade them from carrying such an editorial.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 3:21 pm
DATE 11/25/53
BY C.R.